## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 28 and 29 are pending in the present application. Claims 28 and 29 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino et al. in view of Lamson et al., and Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino et al. in view of Candelore.

Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino et al. in view of Lamson et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 28 is directed to a semiconductor memory device having a semiconductor element, an insulating film, a plurality of lead wires, and at least a single dummy lead wire. Further, the at least a single dummy lead wire is arranged in a space defined by two adjacent lead wires of the plurality of lead wires such that a length of the space is at least twice a minimum pitch between adjacent lead wires. In addition, the two adjacent lead wires are provided on one side of the insulating film to define the space. The claim amendments find support at least in Figure 2A. It is believed no new matter has been added.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 2A shows the semiconductor element 11, the insulating film 12, the plurality of lead wires 13, and at least the single dummy lead wire 13'. Further, Figure 2A shows two adjacent lead wires 13 provided on one side of the insulating film 12 to define the space in which the single dummy lead wire 13' is arranged.

Oshino et al. show in Figures 1 and 2 a semiconductor memory device having a semiconductor element 3, an insulating film 7, a plurality of lead wires 5, and at least a single dummy lead wire 5B. Further, Oshino et al. show two adjacent lead wires 5 formed on a side

of the insulating film 7 with no dummy lead wire 5B formed between the two adjacent lead wires 5. Therefore, Oshino et al. do not teach or suggest two adjacent lead wires provided on one side of an insulating film to define a space in which a single dummy lead wire is arranged and that space having a length that is at least twice a minimum pitch between adjacent lead wires.

To the contrary, Oshino et al. show in Figure 1 a dummy lead wire 5B placed between a first lead wire 5 provided on a first side of the insulating film 7 and a second lead wire 5 provided on a second side of the insulating film 7. In other words, the first and second lead wires that define a space in which the dummy lead wire is formed are provided on different sides of the insulating film.

Further, the two adjacent lead wires 5 shown in Figures 1 and 2 in Oshino et al. and referred to on page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, are provided on different sides of the insulating film: lead wire A is on the left side and lead wire B is on the bottom side of the insulating film instead on being on one side of the insulating film as recited in amended Claim 28.[1] Thus, it is respectfully submitted the two adjacent lead wires A and B in Oshino et al. do not correspond to the two adjacent lead wires of Claim 28.

Lamson et al. is asserted in the outstanding Office Action for showing tip portions of at least two adjacent dummy lead wires connecting to each other on a semiconductor element. However, Lamson et al. do not overcome the deficiencies of Oshino et al. discussed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claim 28 patentably distinguishes over the applied art.

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino et al. in view of Candelore. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

[1] Outstanding Office Action, page 6, second paragraph and Figure 1.

Amended Claim 29 recites similar features as Claim 28. More specifically, Claim 29 recites at least a pair of dummy lead wires (13' in Figure 2A) provided on one side and an opposite side of the insulating film, respectively. Further, one and the other of the at least the pair of dummy lead wires are arranged in a corresponding space, each having a length that is at least twice a minimum pitch between adjacent lead wires. As discussed above, Oshino et al. do not teach or suggest those features.

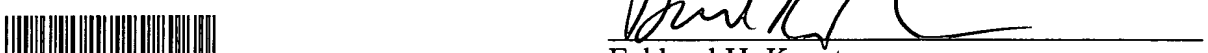
Candelore is asserted in the outstanding Office Action for teaching tip portions of lead dummy wires positioned to face each other and being connected to each other. However, Candelore does not overcome the deficiencies of Oshino et al. noted above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claim 29 also patentably distinguishes over the applied art.

Further, it is respectfully requested this amendment be entered as it is believed the present amendment places the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
David A. Bilodeau
Registration No. 42,325



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

EHK:DAB:RFF:tdm
I:\ATTY\RFF\20s\201163\201163 AMEND AFTER FINAL.DOC